

ST. CLARE COUNCIL UPDATE

A quick look at what's happening around the school so far this year and what to look forward to.



www.stclarecouncil.ca

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope that everyone had a fantastic summer and we are looking forward to another great year here at St. Clare! The St. Clare council is a large group of parent volunteers whose focus is the betterment of our students, school and the local community. All of our teacher and parent volunteers work very hard to promote, develop and maintain a fun and inclusive community spirit through the improvement of our school and its facilities, in addition to establishing a safe and welcoming environment. We hold bi-monthly meetings to plan and discuss upcoming events and school issues and we welcome your involvement and participation.

The council is responsible for many different events and activities throughout the school year: fundraising activities, the “kiss and ride” program, curriculum based activities such as “pioneer days” and “scientist in the school”, retreats, first communion, grade 8 graduation, purchasing trophies and awards, as well as many sports programs and initiatives. (See the back of this newsletter or visit the council website for a complete list of council supported initiatives.)

Our fundraising efforts over the years have enabled us to create and maintain many varied activities and events here at St. Clare. Fundraising has also provided great additions to the school: Air conditioning in every classroom, the electronic scoreboard in the gymnasium, uniforms for our sports teams, outdoor playground equipment as well as maintenance and replenishment of the indoor sports equipment.

Last year, through the Ministry of Education PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant, we partnered with three other schools (St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Francis of Assisi, and Christ the King) to bring in two speakers. They delivered amazing presentations to our parents and students on the positive and negative aspects of social media in today’s society and the effect social media is having on our children and family life. This year, we have added two more schools to this initiative and we hope to bring you even more great presentations and workshops throughout the year.

Our biggest fundraiser of the year, the St. Clare Spook-a-thon, was a huge success again last year raising over \$4,700. This year, we are very excited to announce that Much Music will play host to this event with the **MUCH VIDEO DANCE PARTY!** We know that the kids will LOVE IT and we are counting on you to support this important event!

The council continues to maintain our website (established last year through the PRO Grant initiative) to help reach out to more parents and keep you informed of what is happening with the council and to be accountable to you. You will find everything that the council is involved in, its members, meeting dates, and updates on activities and events. You can also communicate your ideas, thoughts or concerns through this website and we encourage you do so at www.stclarecouncil.ca

Finally, we would like to thank everyone for your continued support. It is no small task to ensure that every student at St. Clare will enjoy ALL these activities from their early years in Kindergarten through to their graduation. We encourage all parents to get involved as a volunteer. A very special thank you to all our parents that have made - and continue to make – these great contributions throughout the year, donating their time and money to such a worthy cause.

Our first parent council meeting and elections are scheduled for Thursday, September 29, 2011 at 7:00pm in the St. Clare library for anyone who wishes to join us or just listen in – we hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

The St. Clare Council

Council supported initiatives in 2010/11:

Fundraising:

- Spook-a-thon
- Spring Olympics
- Bag-2-School
- Gift Basket Raffle
- Acorn Custom Cards
- Pizza Days/Sub Days

Events:

- September Meet and Greet - BBQ and Curriculum night
- Pancake Day
- Christmas Caroling

Programs:

- Before and after school Kiss and Ride program

Special events in support of school curriculum

- Pioneer Day
- Scientists in the School

Community Spirit:

- St. Clare Spirit Wear
- Yearbook
- Council website

Other:

- Every class was subsidized with \$5 per student, to be utilized by teachers for special events or trips
- Sports programs and initiatives
- Trophies and awards
- Grade 8 Graduation
- Presentations and guest speakers
- Retreats for grades 2 and 8
- First Communion
- Year-end Band Performance